1. - 21.   (withdrawn)

22.   (currently amended) A method of providing a diagnostic imaging system in a health care facility, the method comprising:

installing a data network in the health care facility having a plurality of data ports distributed throughout a significant portion of the health care facility;

obtaining a plurality of diagnostic signal acquisition units adapted to be coupled to selected ones of the data ports of the network and which are structured to provide diagnostic signals corresponding to diagnostic images acquired using the diagnostic signal acquisition units;

coupling the diagnostic signal acquisition units to the data network as needed to obtain diagnostic signals using the diagnostic signal acquisition units;

coupling a network data processor to the data network, the network data processor being structured to process the diagnostic signals provided by a plurality of the diagnostic signal acquisition units to produce image data; and

obtaining a plurality of display units which are separable from the diagnostic signal acquisition units and are structured to display diagnostic images corresponding to the image data processed by the network data processor, the number of display units obtained corresponding to at least a number of acquisition units that are used simultaneously,

wherein one of the plurality of display units may be configured to display an image processed by the network data processor from the image data of a selected one of the plurality of diagnostic signal acquisition units.

23.   (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

obtaining a plurality of control units structured to control the operation of either the diagnostic signal acquisition units or the display units, the number of control units obtained corresponding to at least a the number of control units that are simultaneously needed; and

coupling the control units to the data network as needed to either obtain or review diagnostic images.

24.   (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the diagnostic signal acquisition units comprise ultrasound acquisition units.

25.   (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising expanding the capacity of the diagnostic imaging system by:

obtaining an additional number of the diagnostic signal acquisition units, the number of additional acquisition units obtained corresponding to an estimate of the additional number of image acquisition units that will be needed to acquire diagnostic images.

26.   (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising expanding the capabilities of the diagnostic imaging system, comprising obtaining at least one diagnostic signal acquisition unit or at least one display unit having expanded capabilities.

27.   (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising expanding the capabilities of the diagnostic imaging system, comprising loading upgraded software into the network data processor.

28.   (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising uploading the upgraded software from the network data processor to at least one of the diagnostic signal acquisition units or at least one of the display units.

29.   (original) The method of claim 22, further comprising expanding the capacity of the diagnostic imaging system by adding new data processing capability to the network.